

Crab Task Force Meeting Minutes, September 22, 2015
UNO Advanced Technology Center
2021 Lakeshore Dr., STE 210
New Orleans, LA

Meeting called to order at: 12:55pm

Allison West called the roll:

Voting Members Present:

Eric Blanchard
LaQuita Meek
Trudy Luke
Pete Gerica
James Bergeron
Rodney Parfait
Kim Alfonso
Eddie Chagnard
Paul Alfonso

Voting Members Absent:

Chalin Delaune
Warren Delacroix

Non-Voting Members Present:

Jack Isaacs
Julie Lively
Melissa Daigle
Julie Falgout- in for Alan Matherne
Captain Chad Hebert
Randy Pausina – for Mark Schexnayder

Motion to approve July 21, 2015 meeting minutes by Kim Alfonso, second by Eddie Chagnard. Motion adopted.

Motion to approve financial report by Kim Alfonso, second by Eric Blanchard.
Budget balance is \$35,590 and the fund balance is \$129,899.

Randy Pausina presented the Task Force with a status update on the blue crab stock assessment and provided preliminary findings.

Jeff Marx briefed the Task Force with an array of fisheries management options that or used throughout East and Gulf Coasts and discussion was held.

Jack Isaacs pointed out that the number of people who had blue crab landings in 2012: 1,690, 2013: 1,586, and 2014: 1,710. These numbers represented commercial fisherman who landed at least one pound of blue crab in those years.

Cole Garret: gear licenses sold in 2009: 3100, 2010: 3500, and 2011: 3600 and reductions were seen in 2012: 3400, 2013: 3200, and 2014-3300.

Paul Alfonso entered at 1:25 PM

Cole Garrett: the Navigable Order states that no crab traps shall be set in channels or entrances to streams and it shall be the responsibility of the crab fisherman to place his crab traps so vessels can safely navigate.

Darren Bourgeois shared the program numbers. 142 are currently approved in the program and 82 conditionally approved with a total of 244 in the program. 479 renewal letters went out when the program was launched, so that's roughly 264 that chose not to participate.

Kim Alfonso made a motion for a crab moratorium- withdrawn

Randy Pausina reminded the Task Force that there is pseudo-moratorium is already in place that is limiting entry and there is opportunity to tighten it up from there and adjust what is already in place.

Kim Alfonso made a motion to make a preferred option: Present to each member's various constituents for consideration implementing a moratorium on crab trap gear licenses. As part of the moratorium, individuals who held a crab trap gear license for 2 of the 4 years between 2011-2014 AND could prove that 75% of their income came from commercial fishing as reported in "Schedule C" of their IRS income tax return for those years. OR in lieu of the 75% income requirement, an individual would need to have held a crab trap gear license AND prove crab landings via LDWF trip ticket submissions for 2 of the 4 years between 2011-2014. Implement a 2-year apprenticeship program that mirrors that used for the mullet fishery, with the exception that an entrant could previously hold a commercial fisherman's license

Secondary Option - Present to each member's various constituents for consideration implementing a moratorium on crab trap gear licenses. As part of the moratorium, individuals who held a crab trap gear license for 2 of the 4 years between 2011-2014 AND could prove that 75% of their income came from commercial fishing as reported in "Schedule C" of their IRS income tax return for those years. Implement a 2-year apprenticeship program that mirrors that used for the mullet fishery, with

the exception that an entrant could previously hold a commercial fisherman's license, second by Eddie Chagnard.

Enforcement stated that an option for the Crab Task Force to receive more enforcement in the field may be to consider crab overtime.

Kim Alfonso made a motion to recommend doubling the resident and non-resident crab trap gear licenses and dedicating the additional funding in statute for the enforcement and regulation of the crab industry, second by Eddie Chagnard. Motion adopted.

Motion by Pete Gerica to review the Blue Crab Fisheries Management Options and meet October 8, second by Eddie Chagnard

Jeff Marx presented on derelict crab traps dates and locations for 2015.

There was no legislative committee report

The task force will meet again on Thursday, October 8 at 1pm in New Orleans at the UNO Advanced Technology Center.

Pete Gerica made a motion to adjourn, second by Kim Alfonso

Meeting adjourned.